

MEMOIRS

OF THE

Right Honourable

Lady Betty Ireland,

With a particular ACCOUNT of her eldest Son

Speaker Boyle

R O G E R,

D. Halliday

W. F. Fox

JEMMY GRIPE, and FOX, the
JUGLER.

L. B. B. B.

*Tho' the Vulgar ought not too rashly to judge of the
Actions of those in Power; yet Men of Parts who
know their Interests and Designs, may judge of their
Councils and discover their Errors.*

Boyle's Maxims.

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OF THE

Right Honorable

Lady Betty Ireland

WITH A PORTRAIT AND AUTOGRAPH



THE VOLUME CONTAINS THE AUTOGRAPH OF
LADY BETTY IRELAND, AND A PORTRAIT
OF HERSELF.

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

Right Honourable

L. Betty Ireland, &c.

THE History of Lady Betty Ireland, has been so faithfully and elegantly treated of, by a late ingenious Writer, that I shall confine myself to those Memorables, that have occurred within these five Years past.

In the *memorable Year*, 1751, a swaggering Bully, and an Arch-caitiff were sent over by Lady Betty's eldest Sister, as Superintendants over her Household, and Administrators of her domestick and political Affairs.

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Some Time before they arrived, they had recommended a Chaplain to her Ladyship, and to do the Man Justice, he was as graceful in Person, and as well-spoken as any Priest in the Diocese. But the Errant he was sent on, and the private Negotiations he was to effect, were not the most laudable, but the Man being grateful to his Promoters, and a true Son of Levi, ventur'd thro' Thick and Thin, and spared no Expence in pursuit of the Business he was charg'd with.

The first Line of the Priest's Plan, was, to create Jealousies between my Lady and Roger, which at that Time was not a very difficult Matter, as he had very often plaid some queer Pranks, and justly disoblged his Mother. Father ANDREW, for that was the Priest's Name, carried his Point so far, that, tho' Roger sat at his Mother's Table, and enjoy'd some trifling Liberties about her Demesne; yet Andrew had so artfully rigged himself into my Lady's Favour that Roger was totally stripped of his former Power, nay, to so low a Degree, that he had not Weight or Influence to hire, turn off, or even recommend a Domestick to his Mother: This galled him to the Quick, for the Man was of high Blood, and as resolute as vindictive. Andrew might have gone on with Success; nor would the Integrity of his Intentions be suspected, if he had taken popular Measures to disgrace his Rival. The first open Rupture between Andrew and Roger, was about a Servant of my Lady's, who, tho' he was a damnable bad one, neither of them would have troubled their Heads about him, but in order to make him an Instrument of stirring up the Coals.

Roger complained to his Mother of Arthur, for that was the Servant's Name, and told her he was an errant Filcher, and unworthy of her Favour

your and Confidence. *Andrew* swore *Arthur* was the best Servant he ever had, that he had always laid out her Ladyship's Money with the utmost Frugality, and had travelled many a long Mile to serve her, without charging her a Penny for his Trouble, or Expence; and that if there was any Mismanagement, it must be owing to the Servants under him, which her Ladyship might dismiss at pleasure, and that the only Reason *Roger* had to be incensed against *Arthur*, was, that he could never prevail on him to *snack his Vails* with him. When both Parties were heard, *Andrew* seemed to prevail, and *Roger* vowed Revenge against *Arthur* and all his Supporters.

Soon after this Debate, the notable Superintendants arrived, and were highly pleased with the small Conquest *Andrew* had made, but as the Devil would have it, those mighty Head-Pieces went as unpopularity to Work as ever *Andrew* did. Just at their arrival, they made a fine Speech to my Lady, who was ever ready to be gulled with sweet Words, and remarkable for fawning, flattering Speeches, even to her Enemies,

When the superintendants conversed with *Roger*, for they had not seen him for a long Time before, they found the Man was no Fool, that his favourite Passion was Power, and in order to silence his Grumbings, they made him several large Promises, which they never intended to fulfil.

Roger, cunning as he was, greedily swallow'd the Bait upon these Conditions, that he was to share *Arthur* out of his

A solemn Treaty was then entered into by both Parties, and Roger, who had been before excessive querelous, then became so tacit and passive, as to permit the Superintendants to recommend to his Mother, that she should not apply the Issues or Profits of her Demesne to any Purposes however indispensable, untill *previously* recommended by her eldest Sister, and if her senior Ladyship did not think proper to recommend at all, Lady Betty could not put a Morfel in her Mouth, tho' her Coffers were fraught with Treasure.

Preposterous as this Proposal was, it was agreed on, by my Lady and Roger, and enter'd down as a *new Rule*, in the *Ledger and Cash Book*. The Superintendants and *Andrew* hugged themselves on this notable Trick, well knowing it would at all Events, disgrace Roger, either with his Mother or Aunt, for it was in the Power of the latter, at any Time to distress him in his Circumstances, as he held Farms from her, under the Tenure of *Durante, dum bene placito*, in plain English, *while he did, what she bid him*.

The Superintendants could not keep their Countenance long, for as Fallacy and Design were radical in their Nature, they broke Faith with Roger, set up *Andrew* as a Golden Calf to be worshipped by the People, and espoused *Arthur* with Might and Main.

This Proceeding opened Roger's Eyes, and made him look narrowly into the Scene, that was likely to be acted. He had two Things principally to consider, viz. If he starved his Mother, by establishing the *new Rule*, all mankind would inveigh against him, and if he disobliged his Aunt, by rescinding it; he did not know where the Consequence might end, however, upon sage Deliberation

liberation, he determined to avail himself of a *Roman Spirit*, which Disappointment and Revenge had a great Part in raising, and clapping his Hands aside, utter'd in a Soliloquy the following Words: "I have been in Disgrace with my Mother and her Friends for many Years, for entering into *Jobs* with my Aunts, Stewards, &c., and after all the slavish Servitude I have gone thro', I must now be put under a paltry Chaplain, or accept of a MANUMISSION by no Means equal to my Price. To contend in Defence of a tender Parent will be deemed a glorious Struggle, and my Popularity may render me so formidable, that my Aunt may not think it convenient to eject me." Upon these Considerations, Roger bid open Defiance to the Superintendants, who were beaten upon every Attack that Year, and had also the Mortification to find, that Lady Betty's best Friends began to smoke their Designs, and to support Roger, with their utmost Weight.

Roger had a considerable Employment under Lady Betty, which not only gave him great Weight among her Tenants, but also drew the Envy of a dangerous aspiring Family upon him; this Employment was Chairman at the Quarter-Sessions. The Family I have mentioned had been all their Lives in an uniform Conspiracy against Lady Betty and her Tenants, and whenever Roger did a good Thing, it was indirect Opposition to his detested Rivals. Andrew chimed in with this Family, and hoped one Day by their united Force, to prove an over Match for Roger, as the Superintendants took every Opportunity of putting Power in their Hands.

When the Superintendants had fixed all Matters

ters for the next Campaign, they took leave of Lady Betty, and hoped to find her and her Tenants in a better Humour upon their next arrival.

Roger having at this Time some Leisure upon his Hands, set his Engines to Work, and had a Convention of the most considerable of Lady Betty's Tenants, he opened to them the Dangers that lay before them, and described the Persons they were to contend with. He also informed them, that there was a dangerous Family among themselves, which was more to be dreaded than any foreign Enemy, and that if any Misfortune happened to Lady Betty or her Friends, it would proceed in a great Measure from that Quarter. Thus were the People taught to believe, and indeed with some Reason, that they had as much Right to dread domestick, as foreign Enemies, and by the seeming unfeigned Professions of Roger, they unanimously resolved, to Support him at all Events.

The Sire of this Family I have mentioned, looking on Roger with a jealous Eye, had been for a long Time endeavouring to supplant him, and put his Son in his Place: Roger got early Information of this Matter, and did not fail in his Remonstrances to assure the Tenants, that if ever he got the Lead at the Quarter-Sessions, and became one of the Seneschals of the Mannor, for there were generally three of them; Lady Betty's Interest and theirs, would be totally destroy'd, and the whole Mannor reduc'd to Slavery and Bondage.

At the close of this Conference, one of the most considerable of Lady Betty's Tenants, rose up, and with a quixotick Air, avowed himself the Knight Errant of the Party. He return'd to his Closet, and drew up with his own Hand; for verily I believe no one help'd him, a Remonstrance of Lady Betty's Grievances,

Grievances, and with the same Hand, delivered it to her **SENIOR LADYSHIP**, who seemed greatly surprized at so extraordinary a Narrative. The natural Goodness of this Lady's Mind, would have readily induced her to redress them all, but she was immediately surrounded with a Fry of venal Sycophants, who turned the Remonstrance into Ridicule, swore it was bad English, worse Sense, and that it did not contain one Word of Truth.

This Remonstrance, was immediately followed by domineering Letters from the Superintendants, so that a political War immediately commenced. The Cobler quitted his Stall and chopped Politicks in the Beer-house, Pedantick Barny, the Noise of his Bratts, for the tagging Toasts in the Advertiser, the Parson, the disagreeable Druggery of Prayer, for more elevated Office of a Pamphleteer, and the Scholar, the severity of Study, for the Entertainment of the Publick, in Satires, Invectives and scandalous Wit-ticisms on the Chaplain and his Party.

In short, the *Cacoethes Scribandi* became so universal, that each Press groaned under the heavy Weight of the strange Productions of the Day.

And of the Miriads of Authors that voluntarily enlisted under the contending Banners, not above four, were any Thing better than Bedlamites, and of those four rational Writers, but one fell to the unhappy chaplain's Lot.

Amids all those Feuds and Animosities, the Superintendants arrived, and just began where they left

off, but the unpopularity of their Measures drew such a national Resentment upon them, that they were defeated with the utmost Confusion and Disgrace, and ushered to the Water-Side, by a Squadron of ragged Linsey-wolsey Mumpers.

This Conquest drew the greatest Popularity that ever was known in any Country upon Roger and his glorious Adherents, and to do them Justice, no Men living could behave better. All former Complaints against Roger were bury'd in Oblivion, and those who had been his most inveterate Enemies, toasted his memorable Name in flowing Bumpers.

This glorious Party resisted the most powerful Temptations, and even *suffered* in their *Properties* for the Defence of their Country.

The Clamour that was so deservedly raised against the Superintendants; rendered it expedient, to remove them from that Office, and as Lady Betty's Tenants were in the highest Rage, no possible Method could be readily devised to quell the Tumor.

But a cunning Fox on the other Side, who wanted to creep into Consequence at Lady Betty's Expence, proffered to allay all those Animosities in Lady Betty's Family, if he got his Terms at home; this was immediately comply'd with, and the Rogue went artfully to Work. The Tool he went to Work with, was this bustling Knight-Errant of the Party; he closeted him, and said, "My L—d, we have directed every Thing for the Honour and Advantage

vantage of Lady Betty and her Tenants : The former Superintendants are removed, all other Grievances shall be redressed; *Andrew* shall never be a Seneschal again, and the Price of these Concessions, is no more, than to drop all Complaints of your late Superintendants. You shall have a Dove sent to you with an *Olive Branch* in his Mouth, with full Power to *diminify* and enrich as he pleases; all Favours shall be conferred on your Friends, and you, my L—d, shall be whate'er you list. If *Roger* should be obstinate, the Bridle's in your own Hands, you can stop his Career, you know, though his Victory was great, he was run to the Saddle-Skirts, and the Balance is totally in your Power." My L—d readily came into the *Coalition*, and if he was right by Accident before, he was at this Time wrong with his Eyes open, for no skilful General would ever capitulate with an Enemy, after he had thrice beaten him out of the Field.

At last the DOVE arrives, and from the ill Impressions the Tenants received of him, on Account of Connections, &c. he was treated with a distant Respect, and every one seemed to be on his Guard.

After he had spent some Time in very innocent Amusements about the Country, he at last came to Terms with Lady Betty's Tenants, and for the Dispatch of Business, THREE of them made a QUORUM, and these three, *Roger* at the Head of them, formed an inglorious Coalition, by the Terms of which, they tacitly confessed, that they were mad Men for three Years, and that all their Complaints were frivolous or groundless; nay every Word in the Coalition, gave the Lye to the Knight-Errant's Remonstrance

monstrance, and as *previous Recommendations*, were before, to *intitle* us to *eat*, a previous Liberty of Speech was now recommended and carry'd without Opposition. There is one Circumstance that still places this Coalition in a blacker Light; the FIRST of the four rational Writers, who was really the GENERAL of the Party, and the identical Person that raised them to Consequence, was left out of the Treaty to please the Caprice of a very *undove like Desposition*, and if his generalship has got any Thing since, he may thank his own personal Importance for it, for it is a Truth not to be deny'd, that if the *Coalitioners* did not dread an *Explosion*, he would remain still unnoticed.

The Tenants grumbled prodigiously at this scandalous Treaty, and a flying Party was daily expected to disconcert the whole, which certainly would have been the Case, but for the ominous croakings of two soul Birds of Prey, against the Coalition, which filled the *Rogerites* with such dire Apprehensions of a Division, that they swallow'd the Coalition peaceably with their Spittle.

After the establishment of this Treaty, publick Affairs went on smooth and glib, and Roger was every Day rising into greater Consequence.

It is remarkable that Roger arrived to all this Popularity, not by his own personal Interest, but by the Influence of a Number of the most spirited of Lady Betty's Tenants, and the powerful Connexions of a certain noble Family, whose un-

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byass'd Integrity and try'd^d Patriot Worth, had for a long series of Years rendered them the Darlings of the People.

The *Head* of this illustrious Family, was a Man of Humility, and true nobility of Spirit, he had every social Virtue in his Countenance, and as much native Goodness in his Heart, as was sufficient to constitute the most unshaken Guardian of the People.

This Gentleman, Roger always nominated to his Friends as his Successor, and said he knew no other Man equal to so important a Trust; yet after all these Professions, the Event shewed, that Roger only made a *Step Ladder* of that Family to raise himself to the ignominious Preferment, which he now so scandalously enjoys.

A second Treaty was formed, and the *Quorum* consisted of but two of the Party, tho' some say, Roger himself was the single Coalitioner. The new Superintendant told Roger, "You know Sir, you are far advanced in Years, that you have a crumbling Party to deal with, that cannot long subsist; as for my Part, had I interposed, nay even put up my Finger, every Thing should have been carried against you. But I have permitted Matters, to go on as they did, meerly to shew her *senior Ladyship*, that you were a Person of Consequence, and worthy of a profitable and honourable MANUMISSION, if you slip this Opportunity, you'll never get such favourable Conditions again, and you must reasonably expect, from the indispensable Ties of Affinity, that I must support the Man, whom Nature
and

and choice, naturally induce me to promote; I have a Friend to fix in your Place, and if you keep the intended Resignation a Secret, untill he makes his Party good among Lady Betty's Tenants, you shall have whatever Favour you please for your Friends.

Roger immediately closed with the Superintendent, and in an Instant, betrayed all those who had so long supported him and raised him to such an envy'd Degree of Power and Consequence, and particularly the MAN, who at such vast Expence, rendered him victorious in Days of uncommon Tryal. When *Roger* was detected in this insidious Treaty, he fell in a Moment, from the greatest Popularity that ever Man enjoy'd, to the most contemptable Degree of popular Odium, that Venality and Corruption could possibly render any Man subject to.

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The Circumstances that aggravated *Roger's* Guilt so particularly, were, that he secretly stole into Power, the very *Man*, whom he so often said, could never enjoy it, but to the Destruction of his Country.

Lady Betty's Enemies grew surprizingly elate, upon this extraordinary Incident, and laugh'd in their Sleeves at the deluded Tenants, for idolizing a Man whose Virtues were imaginary, and how

who had sold his Friends, when the Purchaser came up to his Price. But let not this new Chairman be delighted with the Clamour so justly raised against *Roger*, for if he had not been the dread and horror of the People, this mock Patriot's Resignation would not have been complained of. *Lady Betty* has still a great Number of valiant spirited Tenants, who will with the last Drop of their Blood, and Shilling of their Property's assert her Rights and tho' they cannot keep an Enemy out of Place, they will keep him from doing *Mischief* in it.

F I N I S.

who had told his friends, when the
came up to his friend, that for not this new
then he is right with the Canon is justly called
against & yet for it he had not been the doing and
master of the people, that mock & abuse the
men would not have been complained of, & yet
as still a great number of valiant spirits
men who will with the last drop of their blood
and shining of their spirits a chief men
and they have kept in the last of
the will have been doing in the

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